NATIONAL PESTICIDE PROGRAM

FY 2006

ANNUAL REPORT

CAPPING A SUCCESSFUL DECADE

FOOD QUALITY PROTECTION ACT DEADLINE

CUMULATIVE RISK ASSESSMENT DECISIONS

PESTICIDES AND HUMAN STUDIES

PESTICIDE CONTAINERS AND CONTAINMENT

REGISTRATION REVIEW

INTERNATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

EMERGENCY USES OF PESTICIDES

PESTICIDE DATA REQUIREMENTS

PESTICIDE REGISTRATION AND REREGISTRATION

REDUCED RISK PESTICIDES

CARBOFURAN TO BE PHASED OUT

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

PESTICIDE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION

EMERGENCY PLANNING AND RESPONSE

ENHANCING WATER QUALITY DATA AVAILIBILITY

LINDANE ACTION PLAN

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

STAKEHOLDER GROUP PROVIDES INPUT

TARGETED FIELD OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

STAFF RELOCATION

PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY

Recycled/Recyclable
Printed with Soy/Canola Ink on paper that contains at least 50% recycled fiber

Jim Jones, Director

2006 ANNUAL REPORT

December 2006

This has been a successful year, capping a successful decade. With the last FQPA deadline approaching, the priority for 2006 was meeting the deadline and maintaining the quality – the reassessment of more than 9,700 tolerances and the reregistration of all food-use pesticides. We met our deadline through collaboration and partnership with stakeholders and use of cutting-edge science, while maintaining transparency and openness. At the same time, we continued to expand our efforts in international cooperation, we made significant strides in implementing a new regulatory basis for our program that will carry us into the future, and we met our goals for registering new pesticides to meet the pest-management needs of the U.S. public. The program has also increased its focus on performance accountability, including moving from counting outputs to understanding outcomes; enhancing the linkages among the strategic plan, the budget, and our annual commitments,; and improving our public communication, performance tracking, and accountability.

The brief reports on the following pages represent the range of accomplishments of the National Pesticide Program in 2006. See our Web site at epa.gov/pesticides for more information about these and other activities of this dynamic program.

SPECIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FQPA Deadline—2006 Culminated 10 Years of Effort

In 1996, the two houses of Congress unanimously enacted the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA). Through this historic action, Congress presented EPA with the immense challenge of implementing the most comprehensive overhaul of the Nation's pesticide and food safety laws in decades. The centerpiece of Congress's challenge was the requirement to review and reassess—within a decade—the tolerances (maximum permitted residues) for all food-use pesticides to ensure they met a new, strict safety standard.

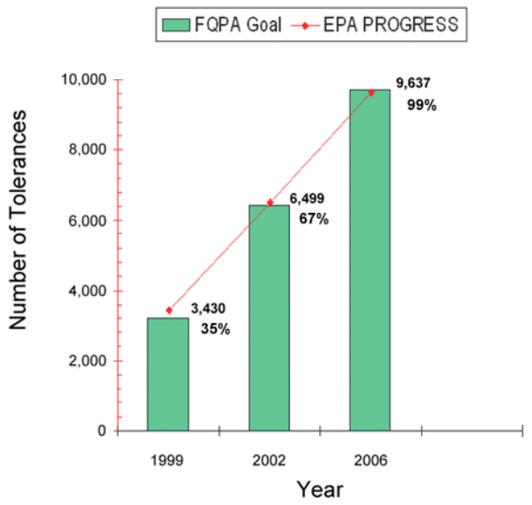
By the end of fiscal year 2006, the Pesticide Program had reassessed more than 99 percent of the 9,721 subject tolerances, an effort that necessitated the detailed review of tens of thousands of toxicology, chemistry, and environmental studies and the application of new risk assessment methods and policies. This 10-year effort, based on sound science and broad public participation, has resulted in the strictest protective standards for pesticide regulation for all Americans, especially infants and children.

Simultaneously with tolerance reassessment, the Pesticide Program determined reregistration eligibility of existing pesticides. This resulted in cancellation of more than 4,300 individual pesticide end-use product registrations in the 10-year span, while still ensuring that pesticides are available to protect Americans, their homes, and their food supply.

Through FQPA, Congress required EPA to reassess 9,721 maximum allowable pesticide residue limits, called tolerances, by August 2006. This graph indicates progress toward that goal. As of FY 2006, 9,637 of a total 9,721 tolerances have been reassessed.

New active ingredients meeting FQPA standard FY1997-2006 – 254

Inert ingredients reassessed – 870 tolerance exemptions for food use inert ingredients reassessed, including 135 revocations



NATIONAL PESTICIDE PROGRAM

2006 ANNUAL REPORT

Over the past 10 years, EPA registered many new active ingredients and new uses of pesticides. These decisions met the strict safety standards of FQPA and provided critical alternatives to uses that were restricted or eliminated. With these lower-risk alternatives, America's shift to safer pesticides ensures that effective pest management tools are available to support production of an abundant, affordable, healthy food supply.

Cumulative Risk Assessment Decisions: Triazines, Organophosphates, Chloroacetanilides

FQPA directs EPA to consider available information on the cumulative effects on human health resulting from exposure to multiple pesticide chemicals that have a common mechanism of toxicity to ensure that there is a reasonable certainty of no harm for cumulative exposure to such pesticides.

Triazines. The Agency concluded that, with mitigation measures for atrazine and simazine, the cumulative exposure associated with the triazines meets the FQPA safety standard. The chlorinated triazines include atrazine, simazine, propazine, and their three chlorinated degradates. Atrazine and simazine are used on a variety of food and feed crops including grains, fruits, and nuts, as well as on turf grasses grown in the Southeastern United States. Propazine is registered for indoor greenhouse use only and has existing tolerances established for residues on sorghum. EPA looked at food, drinking water, and home lawn and golf course exposure where triazine residues are likely to co-occur (the Midwest, California, and Florida). No dietary, drinking water, or residential human exposure to propazine is anticipated from any of the currently registered uses.

Organophosphates. The Agency concluded that with mitigation measures put into place for more than 40 individual OP pesticides from risk management decisions completed during the past several years, the cumulative risks associated with the OPs are below FQPA regulatory levels of concern. EPA canceled several OP uses that contributed most significantly to dietary and residential risk, including the cancellation or phaseout of more than 50 uses on foods that make up a large part of children's diet. The OP class of pesticides now comprises 32 chemicals used primarily as insecticides on a wide variety of food and feed crops and for non-agricultural, residential, and other uses.

New Regulation Sets Rigorous Ethical and Scientific Standards for Human Studies with Pesticides

In January 2006, EPA issued a final rule, "Protections for Subjects in Human Research." This rule prohibits intentional dosing studies of pesticides on *all* children and *all* pregnant women. These prohibitions apply regardless of whether the studies are conducted by EPA, supported by EPA, or intended to be submitted by third parties to EPA under the pesticide laws. In addition, the final rule prohibits EPA in its actions under the pesticide laws from relying on any research regardless of who conducted it, or where or why it was conducted involving intentional exposure of pregnant women or children, except in a very narrowly defined circumstance when more stringent regulatory action would result.

Also, non-pregnant adult volunteers who choose to participate in human studies research will be protected by the highest level of ethical safeguards available. In June 2006, EPA issued a direct final rule that banned nursing women from participating in intentional dosing studies, thereby protecting infants who may be indirectly exposed to the pesticides being tested. In the January rule, EPA also extended the ethical protections in the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects of Research (the "Common Rule") to human research involving intentional exposure of non-pregnant adults to pesticides intended for submission to EPA under the pesticide laws. Human research studies must comply with these rules, and protocols and related information must be submitted to EPA before actual testing in order to ensure that safety standards are met.

An independent Human Studies Review Board (HSRB) has been established to provide independent advice and recommendations to EPA regarding both proposals for new research and completed third-party research—again regardless of who conducted it or where or why it was conducted—involving human subjects. Only after HSRB's rigorous reviews, will EPA decide whether or not to rely on a human study.

By establishing the new regulations, EPA can help prevent the conduct of human research that does not meet rigorous ethical and scientific standards and make clear that certain kinds of human research can never be ethically acceptable. http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/guidance/human-test.htm

Chloroacetanilides. The Agency concluded that the cumulative risk associated with the chloroacetanilides, acetochlor and alachlor, is below the Agency's level of concern. The chloroacetanilides can cause nasal tumors by the same sequence of major biochemical events. EPA also has evaluated the dietary (food and drinking water) human health risks associated with all currently registered uses of the herbicide acetochlor. The Agency has determined that there is a reasonable certainty that no harm will result from exposures to the pesticide from food and non-occupational sources, including drinking water, residential uses, and other non-occupational sources of pesticide exposure for which there is reliable information.

CORE PROGRAM SUCCESSES

The strength and consistency of our core program has made possible the sustained productivity and the achievement of risk reduction that has taken place over the past 10 years.

Rule Processing

In 2006, EPA proposed or completed several important regulations that form the basis for the Pesticide Program's work. These efforts in some cases are the culmination of many years of effort with stakeholders to ensure that up-to-date processes and protective procedures are in place.

Standards for Pesticide Containers and Containment. EPA published a final rule establishing standards for refillable and nonrefillable containers, including design specifications for rinsing, durability, and standardized closures. It requires pesticide labels to provide instructions on how to properly clean containers before disposal or recycling. The rule also establishes standards for secondary containment structures at certain agricultural storage sites and for containment pads at certain agricultural pesticide dispensing operations. EPA believes that as the industry follows these standards pesticide containers will be safely and effectively rinsed before recycling or disposal and large quantities of agricultural pesticides will be stored and transferred under conditions that prevent spills and releases of pesticides into the environment. Additional information about the rule and who is affected by the rule is available at http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/regulating/containers.htm.

Registration Review. EPA completed developing and began implementing a new rule that establishes a program to ensure that all pesticide registrations are systematically reviewed every 15 years. This program, called registration review, will ensure the protection of public health and the environment. The registration review program challenges EPA to continuously improve its processes, science, and information management while maintaining a collaborative and open process for decision-making. The program enables the Agency to systematically consider our knowledge about the uses and potential risks of each pesticide in light of advances in science and risk assessment methods and, if necessary, modify the pesticide's uses to ensure acceptable risks. EPA began its reviews of the first group of pesticides under this program in early 2007. Further information is available at http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/registration_review/.

International Accomplishments

The Pesticide Program's international program goals and activities directly support our mission though projects that lead to strengthening and accelerating public health and environmental protection, minimizing barriers, capturing efficiencies, and saving resources. For example, in 2006 the **North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) project** completed 76 registrations under the Joint Review program (including 30 conventional, 29 reduced-risk, 4 minor-use, 10 microbial, and 2 pheromone pesticides). In addition, one import food use pesticide Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) was established, resulting in resource savings and efficiencies in program implementation. A NAFTA Label Task Force was created to promote consistency in labeling requirements for importing and exporting pesticides, which reduces barriers to trade.

Codex Alimentarius. If appropriate pesticide residue standards are not in place in export markets, the United States will not realize the full benefits of registration of new pesticides, since growers may hesitate to use them. MRLs for pesticides set by the Codex Alimentarius Commission are recognized as international food safety standards under trade agreements and used by many U. S. trading partners as food safety standards. Our agricultural producers who wish to export to countries that rely on Codex MRLs have been concerned about the length of time (up to eight years) it has taken in the past to establish MRLs for newer, often safer, pesticides.

EPA has been working to expedite this process for several years. In 2006, it was decided to make routine use of an already existing accelerated approval process for new MRLs. Criteria as to when the accelerated MRL approval process could be used were agreed to including no dietary risk concerns associated with an individual MRL and the availability of an assessment done from the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues. Using this approach, 207 MRLs for 13 pesticides were established in only 9 months. Codex also approved new criteria for determining the scheduling of pesticides to be reviewed and a new process for dealing with objections/concerns to advancing a Codex MRL through the stepwise approval process.

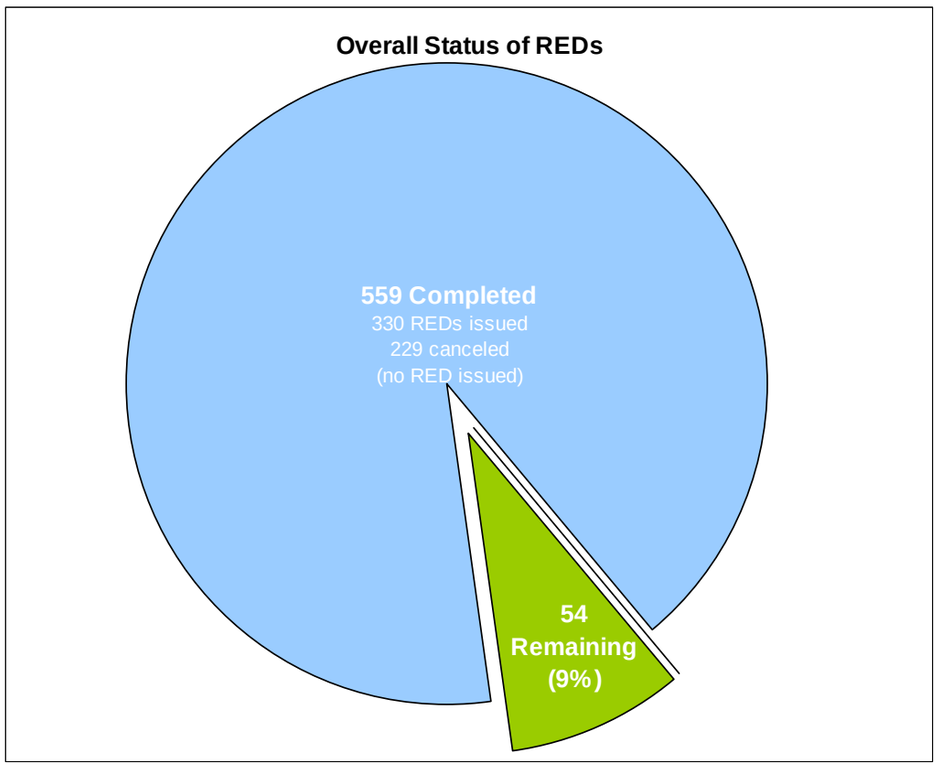
Emergency Uses of Pesticides. EPA, working collaboratively with state agencies and key stakeholders over several years, published a rule to streamline the process for emergency exemptions under Section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). The rule ensures that use of the product will not result in unreasonable risks to human health or the environment.

Pesticide Data Requirements. EPA proposed biochemical and microbial data requirements. This rule clarifies and expands the information submission framework for this important subset of pesticides.

Review of Pesticide Active Ingredients

In 2006, EPA had a very productive year in both review of older pesticides to ensure their continued safety and registration of new pesticides and uses. Highlights include the following:

Pesticide Reregistration. EPA has been reviewing older pesticides (those initially registered before November 1984) under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to ensure that they meet current scientific and regulatory standards. This process, called reregistration, considers the human health and ecological effects of pesticides and results in actions to reduce risks that are of concern. After reviewing extensive scientific data on pesticides undergoing reregistration, the Agency issues Reregistration Eligibility Decisions (REDs) that explain the rationale for its decisions and the conditions under which older pesticides can continue to be available in the marketplace. As of FY 2006, over 90 percent of reregistration eligibility cases have been decided.



Carbofuran to be Phased Out

In 2006, EPA determined that carbofuran uses do not meet the standard for continued registration under FIFRA. The decision was based on high ecological and human health risks and low benefits associated with most crop uses. The Agency has proposed to revoke all carbofuran tolerances, with the exception of those being retained for imported crops only.

Carbofuran is a systemic, broad spectrum N-methyl carbamate insecticide registered for control of soil and foliar pests on a variety of fruit and vegetable crops, as well as ornamentals and agricultural fallow land. Carbofuran is classified as a restricted-use pesticide. No residential uses are registered.

EPA is providing a four-year phaseout for some minor crop uses that have moderate benefits, including artichokes, chili peppers grown in the Southwestern United States, cucurbits (granular formulation only), spinach grown for seed, pine seedlings in the Southeastern United States, and sunflowers.

The Agency will retain tolerances for imported coffee, bananas, rice, and sugarcane. No dietary concerns are associated with these four tolerances.

EPA's tolerance decision for carbofuran is still considered "interim" pending the Agency's completion of the N-methyl carbamate cumulative risk assessment. http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/reregistration/carbofuran/

2006 ANNUAL REPORT

Pesticide Registration. EPA had a very productive year, completing registration of 26 new active ingredients across the program and 3,332 fast-track actions. EPA also approved eight pesticides for import tolerances only. Pesticide Program regulatory actions on 44 already registered pesticides resulted in 186 new uses registered in 2006, 100 of which will benefit minor crop growers through USDA's Interregional Research Project 4 (IR-4). EPA registered eight antimicrobial pesticides in 2006, one of which is a replacement for wood preservatives that have been canceled due to environmental and human health concerns. We completed nearly 100 percent of registration decisions before or on the due date set under the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA). Nearly 1,200 PRIA actions have been completed in FY 2006.

Reduced-Risk Pesticides. Under the reduced-risk conventional pesticide program, EPA completed decisions for 40 reduced-risk new uses and 4 organophosphate-alternative new uses. EPA approved 15 new biopesticides, including for example, methyl eugenol, which is used as an attractant in bait traps, a *Verticillium* isolate to be used against Dutch elm disease, and potassium silicate for use on vegetables, fruits, nuts, vine crops, field crops, ornamentals, and turf for control of fungal diseases and suppression of spider mites, whiteflies, and other insects.

Sustainable Production Systems
EPA Region 5 Strategic Agricultural Initiative specialist and Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) staff member discuss sustainable production systems at the SARE National Meeting, August 2006 in Oconomowoc, WI.

I've been called "EPA's version of Extension" and "our EPA person" by stakeholders. Those sorts of relationships are hard to quantify.

Region 5 Specialist

Regional Activities

The Strategic Agricultural Initiative (SAI) Program. This partnership program has helped implement reduced-risk pest management strategies on over 780,000 acres of farmland and has led to a reduction of at least 30 percent in the use of highly toxic pesticides on those acres within the last two years. Each EPA regional office funds four to six model agricultural field projects over a three-year period and 80 collaborations/outreach activities to foster transition to lower risk pest management strategies. Successes in 2006 include a Region 3 project that resulted in a reduction of 22,000 pounds of fungicides on 4,900 acres of farm land producing watermelon; a Region 5 project that led to a 50 percent reduction in pesticide use and a 30-percent increase in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Wisconsin apple production; and a Region 10 project that enabled 47 Hispanic owner/operators of tree fruit orchards to reduce organophosphate insecticide use on 400 acres by 50 percent and increased IPM practices by 50 percent. The SAI team began working on an approach to publicize and transfer successful practices to other growers across the country. The results of all IPM-funded projects are captured in EPA's Web-based SAI Toolbox Grant Database. See http://www.aftresearch.org/sai/.

Enforcing Sale and Use Requirements. During FY 2006, EPA regional offices issued 18 Stop Sale, Use, or Removal Orders (SSUROs) for unregistered or illegal pesticides. Examples of SSUROs issued include a manufacturer in Osawatomie, KS, for making pesticidal claims for an unregistered product; a retailer in Seattle, WA, for carrying diazinon paint additive products, which are disallowed by EPA; a company selling and distributing 1,000 pounds of a misbranded pesticide that the company intended to import into the United States; two Long Island, NY, pesticide companies and one Georgia company for numerous FIFRA violations concerning the sale of herbicide and insecticide products. These and similar actions around the country help ensure the continued safety of use of pesticides in the marketplace.

Collecting and Disposing of Pesticides. One objective established in EPA's *Strategic Plan* is to reduce the worldwide inventory of persistent organic pollutants, such as DDT, endrin, and toxaphene. EPA Region 9 staff worked with Arizona and Sonora, Mexico, to collect unwanted and obsolete pesticides from farmers in the U.S-Mexico border region and dispose of them properly. Many of the pesticides collected had been improperly stored, were packaged in deteriorating containers, or posed a risk to children playing on waste piles. Approximately 36,000 pounds and 300 gallons of waste pesticides were collected in San Luis, Sonora; in Yuma, AZ, approximately 5,600 pounds and 180 gallons of waste pesticides that have been canceled or severely restricted were collected, including endrin and diazinon.

Pesticide Tribal Circuit Rider. To ensure coverage of Indian Country under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), EPA's Region 8 successfully piloted an innovative approach with the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. Under a cooperative agreement with EPA, the tribe hosts a pesticide circuit rider who performs program and enforcement activities on several reservations as an extension of Region 8's responsibility for program implementation. As a result, FIFRA program coverage was extended to two additional South Dakota reservations: Lower Brule and Crow Creek. The program is being expanded as funding allows.

Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (PESP)

Among the many accomplishments of PESP partners this year, EPA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Edison Electric Institute and five federal agencies to establish sound Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) practices in order to promote healthy ecosytems and protect the public while ensuring reliable electrical service. IVM practices reduce the need for pesticides, and provide measurable results, such as greater natural species diversity along rights-of-ways and better control of invasive species. IVM also prevents wildfires around utility rights-of-way and improves power line safety and electric utility worker safety. http://www.epa.gov/oppbppd1/PESP/

Endangered Species Protection coordination and collaboration with the Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service (jointly referred to as the Services) and interested federal agencies, environmental groups, and affected stakeholders has been a special focus over the past year.

The Pesticide Program is giving sustained and significant attention to protection of endangered species through coordination and collaboration with the Services; aligning risk assessment with routine business in registration, reregistration, and for future registration review; and by establishing its endangered species protection program in the field through use of Web-based bulletins.

NOTEWORTHY CHALLENGES

There are some aspects of program implementation that, while part of our core responsibilities, offer challenges or require efforts that are beyond the normal expectation. Some of these are highlighted below.

Endangered Species Protection

EPA has been sued regarding implementation of pesticide reviews under the Endangered Species Act by several groups. During FY 2006, we met the court-ordered deadlines for the Barton Springs Salamander case and the NRDC Atrazine case regarding seven species, and we reached an agreement on the Red-Legged Frog case.

Atrazine Effects Determination for the Barton Springs Salamander. The Agency released its effects determination for atrazine as it relates to the Barton Springs salamander, thereby meeting the first court-ordered deadline pursuant to a Settlement Agreement with the Center for Biological Diversity and the Save Our Springs Alliance. EPA concluded that atrazine is "not likely to adversely affect" the Barton Springs salamander. The federal government negotiated a settlement in this case that committed the Agency to review the potential effects of six pesticide active ingredients on the endangered Barton Springs salamander and if adverse effects are expected, to initiate "consultation" with the Fish and Wildlife Service under provisions of the ESA. The atrazine effects determination and other related documents are available at http://www.epa.gov/espp/.

Settlement Agreement Regarding 21 Endangered Species. EPA met the first deadline established by a Settlement Agreement between EPA and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), to make effects determinations for atrazine related to eight species. The Settlement Agreement establishes a series of deadlines for the Agency to make “effects determinations” for the pesticide atrazine to determine its potential effect on any of 21 named endangered or threatened species, or their designated critical habitat. The atrazine effects determinations and other related documents are available at http://www.epa.gov/espp.

California Red-Legged Frog Stipulated Injunction. On September 1, 2006, EPA published a proposed Stipulated Injunction that would resolve a lawsuit brought against EPA by the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD). The final Stipulated Injunction issued by the court on October 20, 2006, establishes a series of deadlines for the Agency to make effects determinations for 66 named pesticides to determine their potential effect on the California red-legged frog (a threatened species native to California). The Agency will be distributing a bilingual (English and Spanish) brochure regarding certain aspects of the Stipulated Injunction, information about the California red-legged frog and frogs in general, and pesticides. The full text of the Stipulated Injunction and a fact sheet are available at http://www.epa.gov/espp.

2006 ANNUAL REPORT

Emergency Readiness
EPA supports the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) with advice and assistance related to decontamination and carcass disposal in its efforts to aggressively deal with a potential avian flu virus outbreak in our poultry industry.

Emergency Planning and Response

EPA advanced its readiness capabilities and capacities in the homeland security arena. Advancements were made in several areas, including preparations for avian and pandemic flu, efficacy of disinfectants for anthrax, chemical emergency planning and response capabilities, and response to the hurricane devastation in Mississippi and Louisiana in September 2005.

Avian and Pandemic Flu. EPA advanced its preparedness and that of the agricultural sector for any outbreaks of avian flu by registering additional disinfectant products for the poultry industry to use to decontaminate poultry houses and facilities from the avian influenza virus and preparing a Web site listing available products for decontamination of poultry facilities. EPA made significant advancements in planning for continuity of operation in the event of pandemic influenza.
http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/avian.htm

Anthrax. The Pesticide Program's research microbiologists collaborated with other laboratories to develop improved test methods for disinfectants to inactivate *Bacillus anthracis* (anthrax) and other virulent pathogens.

Chemical Emergency Planning. EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics expanded chemical emergency planning and response capabilities by developing Acute Exposure Guideline Levels for additional hazardous chemicals.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. EPA provided daily coordination support, technical information, and on-site assistance to emergency operation centers, regional offices, and in-field staff in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Enhancing Water Quality Data Availability Through Collaborative Process

The Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), working with the Office of Water, EPA regions, and state partners, developed the "OPP Standard Operating Procedure [SOP]: Inclusion of Water Quality and Impaired Water Body Data in OPP's Registration Review Risk Assessment and Management Process." This procedure establishes a process for the voluntary submission of state and tribal surface and ground water quality data, such as Clean Water Act (CWA) 303(d) and 305(b) data, for consideration in exposure characterizations for ecological risk assessments and in risk management decisions for pesticide registration review. The SOP is intended to encourage submission and use of water quality data during registration review.

To ensure that such data can be used quantitatively or qualitatively in pesticide risk assessments, the SOP provides quality standards in an appendix. Voluntary submission of these data to OPP for pesticide cases beginning the registration review process will ensure that Clean Water Act Section 303(d) impaired waterbody listing data, and other relevant information for these and other water bodies, can be obtained and considered during the registration review process.

Data may be submitted in advance of opening a pesticide case docket or during the public comment period on the initial docket.
http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/registration_review/water_quality.htm

Lindane Action Plan

Officials from the United States, Canada, and Mexico signed the *North American Regional Action Plan (NARAP) on Lindane and Other Hexachlorocyclohexane Isomers* to reduce the risk of exposure to the toxic pesticide lindane and its waste isomer byproducts.

Chaired by EPA, this international effort complements the August 2006 announcement by the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs that U.S. lindane manufacturers voluntarily agreed to cancel registrations for their six remaining agricultural uses, effective July 2007. Similar NARAPs on chlordane and DDT have successfully eliminated the use of these pesticides in North America, and plans are in place to reduce the impacts of mercury and PCBs on the environment.

Lindane is recognized as a toxic, persistent, and bio-accumulative pesticide and one of growing international concern.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Communication with the public is an important element in carrying out pesticide regulation and implementation activities. Through partnerships, outreach, and education, the Pesticide Program is working in a variety of arenas to help encourage responsible pesticide management practices.

Responding to the Public

In FY 2006, OPP responded to 548 Webmail inquiries and 318 letters from the public. In addition, OPP actively provides information about pesticide-related topics and Agency actions through its Pesticide Program Updates newsletter, which is sent out electronically several times a week. In FY 2006, OPP sent out 165 Updates to its listserv of 6,307 contacts.

IPM in Low Income Housing and Urban Vector Management

Providence Housing Authority, Providence, RI: In cooperation with the National Center for Healthy Housing, Boston University, Rivard's IPM Resources, the Rhode Island Department of Health, and the Providence Housing Authority, EPA implemented an IPM in Public Housing project. Among its many accomplishments, this project resulted in the elimination of the use of pesticide sprays and foggers in 2,600 public housing units in favor of strategic trapping, more effective use of baits, and increased efforts to exclude pests and reduce harborages. Before the effort, Providence Housing Authority fogged about 400 units a year with minimal impact on cockroach populations.

IPM in Multi-Family Housing Course for National Healthy Homes Training Center and Network. Based on the success of a pilot training for Providence Housing Authority, EPA partnered with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Healthy Homes Training Center and Network, to develop a one-day "IPM in Multi-Family Housing" training course. This course was piloted in 2006 and based on the positive results, training was provided to more than 500 public housing and public health officials. It will be rolled out nationally, through a network of 15 university-based training centers, in 2007.

Outreach and Communications to Enhance Basic Understanding of IPM in the Health and Housing Community. EPA worked in cooperation with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Centers for Disease Control and the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH) to begin an effort to inform health and housing professionals and the associations that represent them of the merits of using integrated pest management to reduce exposure to pests and pesticides in affordable housing. This effort resulted in several accomplishments during FY 2006, most notably:

- Enhanced the "Keep It Pest Free" module of the NCHH Training Center's *Essentials for Healthy Homes Practitioner* course. The Training Center trained 550 health and housing professionals through this course in the first seven months of 2006.

- Fostered a basic understanding of IPM in affordable housing among the five key national associations that represent housing professionals. Several of these associations have agreed to publish articles on IPM in their newsletters and invited EPA and its partners to make presentations at their conferences.

IPM Training for Senior Centers. Working through grants awarded by EPA's Aging Initiative to the Alliance for Healthy Housing and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, EPA delivered pest management training to more than 400 seniors in Cleveland, OH, and New York City. The training focused on safe use of pesticides, integrated pest management, and pest prevention. In addition to providing general awareness about prevention-based pest management techniques, senior centers were provided with signage, brochures, refrigerator magnets, and other communication tools to reinforce concepts covered in the training. The results of these grants, including outreach materials and case studies developed by grantees, were widely distributed through EPA's Aging Initiative list serve and other means to encourage development of similar efforts in other organizations serving aging Americans. EPA regional offices also have outreach efforts targeted to senior citizens on pest management and pesticide safety through staff projects.

Hispanic Outreach. For the sixth consecutive year, EPA celebrated National Children's Health Month by participating in events and activities that highlighted the importance of protecting children from environmental risks. This year's theme was "Promoting Healthy School Environments." The Office of Pesticide Programs used this opportunity to raise awareness in the Latino community about the importance of reducing children's exposure to pests and pesticides by adopting an integrated pest management approach to pest control. Through this month-long media campaign, we reached 32 million Hispanics in the United States and 16 million households in Latin America. This was accomplished through interviews on television, including CNN en Español; print media, including Vista Magazine, a Sunday newspaper insert with a circulation of 1 million; and 7 radio broadcasts, including CNN Radio en Español, which has a listenership of 26 million.

Stakeholder Group Provides Valuable Input

The advice provided by the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) has been invaluable to the pesticide program in finding new approaches to problems, as well as ensuring stakeholder input on a wide variety of issues.

In 2006, PPDC Work groups dealt with issues such as Spray Drift/NPDES, Worker Safety, Performance Measures, Label Improvement, and PRIA Process Improvement.

Originally established in 1995, the PPDC provides a forum for a diverse group of stakeholders to provide feedback to the Pesticide Program on various pesticide regulatory, policy and program implementation issues.

Membership of the committee includes environmental and public interest groups, pesticide manufacturers and trade associations, user and commodity groups, public health and academic institutions, federal and state agencies, and the general public.

Targeted Field Outreach Opportunities

Critical to the successful implementation of the Pesticide Program is a clear understanding of current practices and issues in the field. One of the ways of achieving this understanding is for staff to participate in field tours. In 2006 more than 50 OPP staffers traveled around the country to participate in targeted field outreach opportunities. Destinations ranged from the Pacific Northwest Specialty Crops IPM Symposium in Oregon to the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association Spring Tour in Fort Myers, FL. Participation in the various field tours provided the program with an excellent resource for training staff and exchanging information with our stakeholders. In 2006, major topics included information technology, mosquito control, food processing, pesticide residues, invasive species, methyl bromide alternatives, land and water use, and bio-controls and other reduced risk practices. Featured crops included sunflowers, wheat, potatoes, soybeans, rice, mint, sugar beets, and barley.

2006 ANNUAL REPORT

OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

Staff Relocation and Improved Management of Information Technology

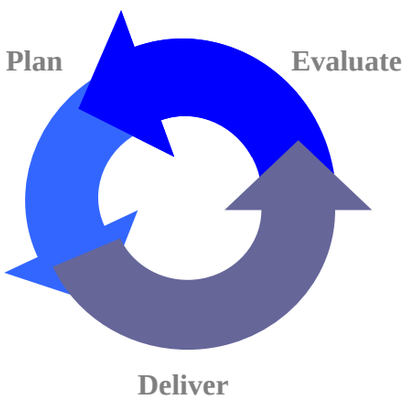
In 2006, EPA moved and set up over 1,000 employees and contractors to Potomac Yard in one week without a break in providing critical services to staff and stakeholders. We took full advantage of this opportunity to address some of the key information technology and management issues that are critical to the successful completion of OPP's mission.

OPP is a data-rich environment. As such, we continue to seek ways to increase the productivity and quality of our work products. EPA used the move as an opportunity to invest in improvements to our overall information technology and management. Building on existing accomplishments from several years of effort spent evaluating OPP's information management needs and setting goals and implementing priorities for investment in this area, we implemented several carefully selected projects that will provide both immediate and long-term benefits for the program and its stakeholders.

OPP now employs a standardized desktop approach through centralized management for every work station (all work stations are included in an enterprise network so that installation, operation, and maintenance of hardware and software are coordinated from a central location, which reduces the overall cost of operation). We imaged over 28,000 historical registration jackets totaling over 5.2 million pages and made these regulatory jackets electronically available to all employees at their computer desktop, gaining huge programmatic efficiencies. We also invested in document management and electronic submission of regulatory submissions, both in accordance with the President's Management Agenda e-Government initiative.

Other notable aspects of the move include the inclusion of modern meeting facilities, which will enhance our ability to continue our collaborative partnerships with stakeholders. In addition, the building was awarded a LEED™ silver certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Performance Accountability



In 2006, the Pesticide Program worked toward implementation of the performance measures developed in 2005. This included working with the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee Performance Measures Work Group to gain insight on the public's view of these performance measures. A major step toward implementation of the new performance measures was a re-vamping of our portion of the Agency Strategic Plan for 2006-2011 to focus on the outcomes of the work done by the Pesticide Program. To this end, the new Strategic Plan focus is on the three mission areas identified in the performance measures process: protection of human health from pesticide risk, protection of the environment from pesticide risk, and realization of the value from pesticide availability. Beyond the Strategic Plan, we committed to a range of measures to be used for programmatic accountability. While we have made tremendous improvements to the performance measures this year, we continue to work to identify meaningful performance measures for the National Pesticide Program. http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/finstatement/2006par/index.htm